Dewan's reply.—The subject is under consideration of Government in the Legislative Department. It has been brought to the notice of Government that cattle trespass fines and cattle pound receipts are unduly heavy in some parts (the Kadur District for instance) more than in others. The statistics and their significance will also require examination.

Subject No. 17.

Coffee Stealing Prevention Act.

Summary of Discussion.—The Coffee Stealing Prevention Act, as pointed out by Mr. Brett last year is ample, were its provisions systematically carried out by the Police. Planters endeavoured to stimulate the action of the Police last season by offering rewards, for conviction, but little good has resulted. Planters therefore ask that orders may be issued to the Police in the Coffee Districts for enforcing more rigorously the provisions of this Act. Special emphasis being given to those sections of the Act which empower the Police to demand the production of accounts from shop-keepers and others suspected of receiving stolen coffee. The Planters' Association would also draw attention to the inadequacy of the sentences sometimes awarded. The Act is all that can be desired. Only the Police and Magistracy should work it properly. The Deputy Commissioner Colonel Campbell observed that the Act was in itself adequate and there was no complaint on that score. The offers of reward made by the Association have had a good effect. Only the rewards should be more promptly paid. Every year about crop time, a circular is issued drawing the attention of the Police to the provisions of the Act, and stimulating their exertions under it. This we shall continue to do, and it may be hoped that there will be no room for complaint in the future.

Dewan's reply.—That is sufficient and all that need be done. The attention of the Inspector General of Police and of Magistrates generally will be drawn to the remarks now submitted in regard to the working of this Act.

Subject No. 18.

Roads in the Coffee District.

Summary of Discussion.—The request of Planters at last year's Assembly was not, as would appear from the Proceedings, that all District Local Fund Roads should be metalled. This would indeed in many cases be a waste of money. It rather was that the necessary repairs should be carried out at the right time. What is required is more supervision when the work would be economically carried out. Colonel Bowen advocated the appointment of a special subordinate officer exclusively for roads, and the Planters' Association specially wish to insist on the necessity for this. Colonel Bowen is reported to have said that "the traffic in recent years has assumed enormous proportions, and was now much heavier than this class of roads was ever intended to carry". This surely conveys with it, the obvious admission that the roads are not all they should be, as some, among many others require immediate attention. Examples of this are, the roads from Yedahalli to Shimoga, and from Yedahalli to Lakkavalli, and

from Koppa to Chikmagalur. Year after year they become almost impassable in the monsoon. A rumour has reached the Association that the present Executive Engineer is cutting down the rates. The Association hope that this is not the case.

Dewan's reply.—The point is noted. Government will do all that may be necessary to keep the roads in fair order and the attention of the Chief Engineer will be drawn to the remarks now submitted by Representatives.

Subject No. 19. Game Law.

Summary of Discussion.—Some two years ago, the draft of a Game Preservation Act was submitted to the North Mysore Planters' Association when it expressed its complete approval of the same and the Association would be glad to know what progress it has made towards becoming Law. Unless immediate action were taken there would be hardly any game to protect.

Mr. Elliott also spoke a few words to urge the importance of this Act on the notice of Government; he said that the first sign of advancing civilization was the protection of wild animals. A Game Law was often one of the earliest laws enacted in British Colonies. A Game Law was very much needed in Mysore, where for instance, the spotted deer is becoming very rare, if not extinct. And it is so with Bison. The killing of cow-Bisons is as unsportsmanlike as it is opposed to Hindu feeling, and it behoves Mysore as a Native State to be particularly jealous of its wild animals. Early legislation is necessary.

Dewan's reply.—The Madras Government sent up a measure very much like that which was proposed for Mysore, but the Secretary of State vetoed it on the ground chiefly that it would interfere with the ordinary rights and privileges of subjects. It is well therefore that we should revise our proposals, so as to meet the objection taken to the Madras measure. The precise nature of these objections is being ascertained. The whole subject is engaging the consideration of Government.

Subject No. 20. Railways.

Summary of Discussion.—The North Mysore Planters' Association wished to inform Government of the immense benefit that the Railway running through Kadur is to them, and to express a hope that at some time not very distant date, they may see French-Rocks, Hassan, Chikmagalur and Kadur connected by rail. They also most fully appreciate the advantage of having a line of telegraph running through the Planting Districts.

On this subject, a subsequent speaker (Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Representative from the Chikmagalur Municipality) spoke to the effect that even more than a branch line of Railway to Shimoga, a line from Kadur to Mangalore was important, and would prove most valuable by opening out a large tract of